NUMB. CXLVII.

The SPECTATOR.

Pronuntiatio eſt Vocis & Vultus & Geſtus moderatio cum venuſtate. Tull.

Saturday, Auguſt 18. 1711.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

THE well Reading of the Common Prayer is of ſo great Importance, and ſo much neglected, that I take the Liberty to offer to your Conſideration ſome Particulars on that Subject: And what more worthy your Obſervation than this? A thing ſo Publick, and of ſo high Conſequence. It is indeed wonderful, that the frequent Exerciſe of it ſhould not make the Performers of that Duty more expert in it. This Inability, as I conceive, proceeds from the little Care that is taken of their Reading, while Boys and at School, where when they are got into *Latin*, they are look'd upon as above *Engliſh*, the Reading of which is wholly neglected, or at beſt read to very little purpoſe, without any due Obſervations made to them of the proper Accent and manner of Reading; by this means they have acquir'd ſuch ill Habits as won't eaſily be remov'd. The only way that I know of to remedy this, is to propoſe ſome Perſon of great Ability that way as a Pattern for them; Example being moſt effectual to convince the Learned, as well as inſtruct the Ignorant.

'You muſt know, Sir, I've been a conſtant Frequenter of the Service of the Church of *England* for above theſe four Years laſt paſt, and 'till *Sunday* was ſevennight never diſcover'd, to ſo great a Degree, the Excelleney of the Common Prayer. When being at *St. James's Garlick-hill* Church, I heard the Service read ſo diſtinctly, ſo emphatically, and ſo fervently, that it was next to an Impoſſibility to be unattentive. My Eyes and my Thoughts could not wander as uſual, but were confin'd to my Prayers: I then conſider'd I addreſs'd my ſelf to the Almighty, and not to a beautiful Face. And when I reflected on my former Performances of that Duty, I found I had run it over as a matter of Form, in compariſon to the Manner in which I then diſcharged it. My Mind was really affected, and fervent Wiſhes accompanied my Words. The Confeſſion was read with ſuch a reſign'd Humility, the Abſolution with ſuch a comfortable Authority, the Thankſgivings with ſuch a Religious Joy, as made me feel thoſe Affections of the Mind in a manner I never did before. To remedy therefore the Grievance above complain'd of, I humbly propoſe, that this excellent Reader, upon the next and every Annual Aſſembly of the Clergy of *Sion College*, and all other Conventions, ſhould read Prayers before them. For then thoſe, that are afraid of ſtretching their Mouths, and ſpoiling their ſoft Voice, will learn to Read with Clearneſs, Loudneſs and Strength. Others that affect a rakiſh negligent Air by folding their Arms, and lolling on their Book, will be taught a decent Behaviour, and comely Erection of Body. Thoſe that Read ſo faſt as if impatient of their Work, may learn to ſpeak Deliberately. There is another ſort of Perſons whom I call Pindarick Readers, as being confin'd to no ſet meaſure; theſe Pronounce five or ſix Words with great Deliberation, and the five or ſix Subſequent ones with as great Celerity: The firſt part of a Sentence with a very exalted Voice, and the latter part with a Submiſſive one: Sometime again with one ſort of Tone, and immediately after with a very different one. Theſe Gentlemen will learn of my admired Reader an Evenneſs of Voice and Delivery. And all who are Innocent of theſe Affectations, but Read with ſuch an Indifferency as if they did not underſtand the Language, may then be inform'd of the Art of Reading movingly and fervently, how to place the Emphaſis, and give the proper Accent to each Word, and how to vary the Voice according to the Nature of the Sentence. There is certainly a very great Difference between the Reading a Prayer and a Gazette, which I beg of you to inform a Sett of Readers, who affect, forſooth, a certain Gentleman-like Familiarity of Tone, and mend the Language as they go on, crying inſtead of Pardoneth and Abſolveth, Pardons and Abſolves. Theſe are often pretty Claſſical Scholars, and would think it an unpardonable Sin to Read *Virgil* or *Martial* with ſo little Taſte as they do Divine Service.

'This

'This Indifferency ſeems to me to ariſe from 'the Endeavour of avoiding the Imputation of Cant, 'and the falſe Notion of it. It will be proper there-'fore to trace the Original and Signification of this 'Word. Cant is, by ſome People, derived from 'one *Andrew Cant* who, they ſay, was a Presby-'terian Miniſter in ſome Illiterate part of *Scotland*, 'who by Exerciſe and Uſe had obtained the Facul-'ty, *alias* Gift, of Talking in the Pulpit in ſuch a 'Dialect, that it's ſaid he was underſtood by none 'but his own Congregation, and not by all of them. 'Since *Maſ. Cant*'s time, it has been underſtood in 'a larger Senſe, and ſignifies all ſudden Exclama-'tions, Whinings, unuſual Tones, and in fine all 'Praying and Preaching like the unlearned of the 'Presbyterians. But I hope a proper Elevation of 'Voice, a due Emphaſis and Accent, are not to come 'within this deſcription: So that our Readers may 'ſtill be as unlike the Presbyterians as they pleaſe. 'The Diſſenters (I mean ſuch as I have heard) do 'indeed elevate their Voices, but it is with ſudden 'Jumps from the lower to the higher part of them; 'and that with ſo little Senſe or Skill that their Ele-'vation and Cadence is Bawling and Muttering. 'They make uſe of an Emphaſis, but ſo impro-'perly, that it is often placed on ſome very inſigni-'ficant Particle, as upon *if*, or *and*. Now if theſe 'Improprieties have ſo great an Effect on the Peo-'ple, as we ſee they have, how great an Influence 'would the Service of our Church, containing the 'beſt Prayers that ever were Compos'd, and that in 'Terms moſt affecting, moſt humble, and moſt expreſ-'ſive of our Wants, and Dependance on the Object 'of our Worſhip, diſpos'd in moſt proper Order, and 'void of all Confuſion, what Influence, I ſay, would 'theſe Prayers have, were they delivered with a 'due Emphaſis, an appoſite Riſing and Variation of 'Voice, the Sentence concluded with a gentle Ca-'dence, and, in a Word, with ſuch an Accent 'and turn of Speech as is peculiar to Prayer?

'As the matter of Worſhip is now managed in 'Diſſenting Congregations, you find inſignificant 'Words and Phraſes raiſed by a lively Vehemence; 'in our own Churches, the moſt exalted Senſe 'depreciated, by a diſpaſſionate Indolence. I re-'member to have heard Dr. *S*——*e* ſay in his Pul-'pit, of the Common Prayer, 'that, at leaſt, it was 'as perfect as any thing of Human Inſtitution: If 'the Gentlemen who err in this kind would pleaſe 'to recollect the many Pleaſantries they have read 'upon thoſe who recite good Things with an ill 'Grace, they would go on to think that what in 'that caſe is only Ridiculous, in themſelves is Im-'pious. But leaving this to their own Reflections, 'I ſhall conclude this Trouble with what *Cæſar* 'ſaid upon the Irregularity of Tone in one who 'read before him, *Do you read or ſing? If you ſing, 'you ſing very ill.*

Your Moſt Humble Servant.

Compleat Setts of this Paper, for the Month of July, are to be ſold by Mr. Graves in St. James's Street; Mrs. Bond at the Old Vine at Charing-Croſs; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-Houſe, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings; Mrs. Treguney, near Eſſex-Street; Mrs. Boulter next the Roſe Tavern at Temple Bar; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate; Mr. Lloyd near the Church in the Temple; Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard; Mr. Round in Exchange Alley, and Mrs. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane; where alſo may be had theſe for the Months of March, April, May and June.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Never Acted but once.

By her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane, on Tueſday next being the 21ſt Day of Auguſt, will be preſented, A new Comedy call'd the City Ramble, or A Play-houſe Wedding. The principal Parts to be Perform'd by Mr. Mills, Mr. Booth, Mr. Johnſon, Mr. Bullock Sen. Mr. Norris, Mr. Pack, Mr. Bullock Jun. Mr. Elrington, Mr. Burkhead, Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. [illegible], Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Willis, and Miſs Sherſon.

THE Famous Water-Theatre of the late Ingenious Mr. Winſtanley will continue to be Shewn for 7 Days and no longer this Seaſon: There is the greateſt Curioſities in Water-Works, the like was never perform'd by any. It is Shown for the Benefit of his Widow every Evening at 5 of the Clock; with ſeveral new Additions made this Summer: As Three new Stages, Sea Gods and Goddeſſes, Nymphs, Mermaids and Satires, all of them playing of Water, and ſome with Fire mingling with the Water; and a Sea Triumph round the Barrel that hath entertained the Pit and Boxes with ſo many ſorts of Liquors: All which is taken away, and the Barrel is broke in Pieces before the Spectators. Boxes 2s. 6d. Pit 1s. 6d. Firſt Gallery 1s. Upper Gallery 6d. It is at the lower end of Pickadilly, and is known by the Wind-Mill on the Top of it. When this time is expired, Mr. Winſtanley's fam'd Houſe at Littleberry in Eſſex will be open'd in compleat Order, with ſeveral new Additions, and ſhown for the benefit of his Widow.

Whereas the Magiſtrate of Spa, near Liege, have received Information, that ſeveral private Perſons have [illegible] England, and other Countries, great Quantities of Foreign [illegible] Waters under the Denomination of *Spa Waters*, which have [illegible] its Virtue or Qualities; and the King himſelf obliged to undeceive [illegible] Perſons concerning, and to inform the Publick in general, that it [illegible] be eaſily proved the greateſt part of theſe Mineral Waters, which [illegible] Year have been ſent into Foreign Countries are not truly ſuch, [illegible] taken from other Places (except thoſe ſent and diſpoſed of by Mr. [illegible] leſſin and Mr. Hubert Grandchamps, Merchants of Liege:) Therefore, to prevent the like Abuſe for the future, all Perſons are deſired to take Notice, that whatever Bottles or Hampers ſhall be ſent [illegible] their Correſpondents, without an Authentick Copy of the Declaration made on the 15th of May, 1711, by the College of Phyſicians at Liege, and with at the ordinary Seal, and a Certificate ſigned by the Gr[illegible] of Spa, muſt be look'd upon as Waters Counterfeit, and taken [illegible] other Places, and not approved by the ſaid College of Phyſicians [illegible] Liege.

Loſs of Memory or Forgetfulneſs, certainly Cured by a grateful Electuary peculiarly adapted for that end; it ſtrikes at the Prime Cauſe (which few apprehend) of Forgetfulneſs, makes the Head clear and eaſie, the Spirits free, active and undiſturb'd; and by a reward revives all the noble Faculties of the Soul, ſuch as Thought, Judgment, Apprehenſion, Reaſon and Memory; which laſt in particular it ſo ſtrengthens, as to render that Faculty exceeding quick and good beyond Imagination; thereby enabling thoſe whoſe Memory was before almoſt totally loſt, to remember the Minuteſt Circumſtances of their Affairs, &c. to a wonder. Price 2s. 6d. a Pot. Sold only by Mr. Payne's at the Angel and Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard next Cheapſide, with Directions.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

The Second Vol. of the Peerage of England, or a Genealogical and Hiſtorical Account of all the Families of the Kingdom who have born the Dignity of Peerage, either by Tenure, Summons to Parliament, Inveſtiture or Creation, &c. from the Saxon Times to this preſent Year 1711. In which is contain'd ſome Memoirs of the Lives of the moſt Eminent Perſons this Nation has ever produc'd; the Date of their Summons to Parliament, Advancement to Honours and Imployments, their Marriages and Iſſue, with the Original of many Ancient Families not to be found in Sir William Dugdale, or any other Printed Author, and the Contributions of Several others who are ſtill Exiſting in their Collateral Branches: Faithfully Collected from approved Manuſcripts, Publick Hiſtories and Records, and other credible Authorities; and, with the Firſt Vol. of this Work, Compleats the Whole Peerage of England to this Time, in two Parts, Printed for Egbert Sanger, at the Poſt-houſe at the Middle Temple-gate, and A. Collins at the Black Boy, in Fleetſtreet.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.